

CLAIMS

1. A sternum reinforcing device to be used after a sternotomy or a sternal fracture, characterised in that the device comprises at least an elongated modular member, which is designed to be located on a surface portion of an anterior edge of a sternum
5 and provided with a first and a second connection parts, said first connection part of said elongated modular member being adapted to join with a second connection part of a preceding elongated modular member, said second connection part of said elongated modular member being adapted to join with a first connection part of a following elongated modular member; each elongated modular member being further provided
10 with a projecting portion designed to be fitted in an intercostal space adjacent to the lateral edge of the sternum.
2. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the connection parts of the two elongated members form a prismatic coupling between them.
3. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the elongated modular member
15 is made from a biocompatible, shaped and bent plate material to comprise, as a first connection part, a coupling part or male arm having a rectangular flat cross-section profile and, as a second connection part, a coupling part or female arm having a hollow channel-shaped cross-section, said coupling part or male arm being adapted to be fitted slidingly in the coupling part or female arm of a preceding elongated modular
20 member.
4. A device according to claim 1, characterised in that the said projecting portion for the intercostal space is a body portion of the elongated modular member extending between said connection parts and at right angles to them, and is U-shaped having parallel free edges, orthogonally bent outwards, to enclose between them a clamping
25 means of the elongated member to the same sternum.
5. A device according to claim 4, characterised in that said clamping means consists of

a stainless steel wire.

6. A device according to claim 4, characterised in that said free edges of the U-shaped projecting portion extend from the projecting portion in the form of legs which can be fitted in the intercostal space of the thorax of a patient, laterally to the sternum, and
5 bent in a mutually opposite direction, on the internal side of the thorax.

7. A device according to claim 6, characterised by comprising further a separated splint provided with a multiplicity of slots for the passage and the retaining of said legs before the legs being bent from the body portion in a mutually opposite direction.

8. A device according to claim 7, characterised in that said splint is provided, on one
10 side thereof, with guiding notches to accommodate said clamping means.